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The SPIRIT

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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, BROOKLYN

WELCOME !

Once again, the doors of St. Joseph's open as the year begins, welcoming new students and welcoming back old ones. For the freshmen and transfer students, the first week was a week of activities which helped them become better acquainted with St. Joe's and the people here.

It began with Freshman Orientation on Tuesday, September 6, which welcomed the class of 1987. Coffee and doughnuts were served in the cafeteria. Peer Counsellors and new students were given a chance to mingle. "Games" were played to allow the students to "break the ice" as Gina Betro, Director of Counselling and Testing, put it. Although these games may seem unnecessary at first, they do allow students to relax and communicate with each other. Such games are played at Universities such as St. John's and Harvard. The day also included several speakers including Sr. Amata, Registrar, Sr. Margaret Buckley, Sister Mary Florence, Dr. Holtzman, Chairman of Mathematics, and Carol Sullivan, Director of Financial Aid. The students who spoke were Barbara Bischoff, Tom Forre, and Nephzibah Gonzalez. Raymond Cashman, Director of Student Activities made sure the day ran well and also presented his slide show of events from last year. Lunch was served in the Dillon Mall and the day concluded with the taking of ID pictures.

The Freshman Barbecue was held Friday, September 9 and was a great success. Everyone had a good time playing volleyball

or participating in the egg tossing contest. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served, and freshmen and transfer students were admitted free.

On Sunday, September 11, the formal Investiture of Students was held. Sister George Aquin O'Connor, President, Sister Mary Florence Burns, Vice President, Sister Teresa Avila, Dean of Students, Fr. Richard Ferris, Dr. John Seekamp, and Ray Cashman were among those present at the celebration. The freshmen were reminded of the significance of the caps and gowns they wore, and officially indoctrinated into life at St. Joe's.

At the investiture, members of Sigma Iota Chi were awarded their certificates. The members of student council (those who attended) were also given gold tassels.

A reception took place after the ceremony in the parlors of the 245 building, during which parents, teachers, and, of course, students, were given a chance to socialize.

All in all, it was a pretty eventful and enjoyable week. Hopefully, students and faculty will be able to keep the encouraging spirit of that week, and maintain it throughout the ensuing year.

By Zareh Artinian

MARIE MACKEY:

Profile of a President

By Diana Marinello



Marie Mackey, a quiet, unassuming woman of twenty-one, has taken on the challenge and responsibility of being president of the undergraduate association.

No stranger to responsibility, Marie has been active in various St. Joseph's clubs, including: The Gaelic Society(which she founded), Yearbook, Campus Ministry, Chapel Players, The Spirit, The College Advisory Council, and, of course, The Senate.

She was gracious enough to take the time from her busy schedule to talk to The Spirit about her new responsibilities and the role she will be playing in the future of St. Joseph's College.

When asked why she ran for the position in the first place, Marie answered, quite simply, "I felt I could do the job!"

"At the end of my sophomore year," she continues, "my friends wanted me to run, but I didn't feel ready at that point. But after my Junior year, I felt that the time was right."

Marie seems pretty set in her ways, and rather confident of the plans she has for the future.

"I do not want to see a carbon copy of last year," she maintains. "I would like to expand a bit and come up with a few new projects."

As examples, she described several of her "babies". She has organized a retreat to St. Mary's Abbey, noting that, in all of her four years, there has never been a college retreat sponsored by the U.A. She also discussed the Dance-A-Thon for Covenant House, the upcoming Barn

Dance, and her plans for a Mardi Gras celebration in February. Marie also expressed a desire to elevate the quality of St. Joseph's publications, and establish a real Campus Ministry and not one that's "just on paper". A better intramural program and more inter-campus activities with Patchogue are also on her agenda.

Marie's final goal, is to put St. Joseph's College, "on the map".

"Little by little," she explains, "we are trying to let the rest of New York know that there is a St. Joe's in Brooklyn. Things like The Great Bridge Event make people aware that we exist."

"I would also like to see the faculty become more involved in student activities, not only moderating clubs, but also attending Dinner-Dances, Mixers, Film Nights, Basketball Games, and other student-sponsored events".

Marie says the student body should have a hand in seeing these goals realized.

"We really need people to help out and get involved. All of us have jobs, but even helping out occasionally would be great! We also want new ideas!"

The Spirit asked Marie to elaborate on what she thinks are SJC's strong and weak points.

"I think students should be more involved in the admissions process. Enrollment directly effects SJC because the U.A. budget is based on activity fees. The less students, the less money to work with, thus, programs suffer. On the positive side, SJC students have a character all their own. They are warm, friendly, trusting and well-behaved. Thank God we really have no drinking or drug problems on campus. This, combined with students who are at the same time academic achievers is great!"

Marie Mackey, the Undergraduate Association's new president, is a confident, competent young woman who speaks with conviction and seems to have everything under control. The Spirit would like to take this opportunity to wish her a successful, productive year.

S.J.C. Gets a new face!

The freshman and transfer students are not the only "new faces" at SJC this year. Several areas of the college have gotten face lifts over the summer. Renovations have been going on for months, largely through the efforts of Mr. Pete De Feo, and students Zarah Artinian and Brian Dwyer.

Two of the biggest projects were the "Swamp" and the newly purchased parking lot. The basement of the "Swamp" was cleaned out, which involved removing dirt, coal dust, and accumulated garbage. Old furniture was removed, the ceiling and walls were painted, and central heating was installed. The room by the back door has a new floor, but the rest of the Swamp still needs one.

The outdoor parking lot was overgrown with garbage and weeds, which Brian and Zarah removed. The indoor lot received a general clean-up.

Other renovations included improvements in the "Rec" Room, classrooms, and the handball courts. The carpet in the "Rec" Room is new. Pete painted the walls there, and also in the halls. Classroom floors in the "245" building were sanded down and varnished. All rugs and floors were cleaned.

We at SJC appreciate the changes, which are attempts to make our campus a more enjoyable place to all. Those who helped give the college its new look should be congratulated on a job well done!

By Ellen McCarthy

Inquiring Reporter

By Mary McManus

SJC's inquiring reporter took to the campus in search of freshmen to answer this week's indepth and searching probe. The question: WHAT IS THE MOST EMBARRASSING OR AMUSING THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU SO FAR AT ST. JOE'S ?

Colleen Ducey, from Glendale, N.Y., a graduate from Dominican Commercial, made a big splash with everyone in the cafeteria when she spilled coffee on the floor at orientation.

Thinking that he was late for class, Louis Impellizeri of Richmond Hill, N.Y., a graduate of Queens Cathedral Prep, walked into the classroom and discovered his instructor in the middle of teaching a class. The only problem was that it wasn't Lou's class, but the last five minutes of the one scheduled right before his.

Kevin McHugh of Brooklyn, N.Y., a graduate of Cathedral Prep asked a faculty member where one of his classrooms was located. Embarrassment caught up with him when the teacher who gave him directions turned out to be his instructor for the class he asked about.

Missing the Clinton Ave. stop of the GG and staying on the train to the end of the line on the first day of school was embarrassing for Diana Marinello of Glendale, N.Y., a Mary Louis graduate.

The Spirit would like to thank the freshmen interviewed for their cooperation and honesty. We hope that their experiences at St. Joe's will be short on embarrassing moments and long on happy memories.

EDITORIAL : Into The Lion's Den

Good evening. I know you're probably reading this on a nice, crisp Autumn afternoon, but I'm writing it in my hot, musty basement on a chilly Autumn evening.

You hold in your hand what will hopefully become a steady part of your life here at St. Joseph's; The Spirit. I'm typing these words the night before the paper is to be layed out, and I'm getting nervous wondering whether or not it's all going to work. I've had a year's experience at SJC, but as far as this editing business is concerned, I feel like I'm walking into a lion's den, armed only with my weary, overworked pen. I know there will be obstacles in my path, I hear the reflected echoes of future screams: reporters complaining about the excessive workload, editors telling me that the deadlines can't possibly be met, lay-out workers tearfully confessing that they accidentally dumped the copy in the incinerator. I hear future outcries, but still I am excited.

I'm used to unfamiliar situations. I was a freshman at N.Y.U. before I came here, only to experience being a freshman again. I understand those who feel they'll never make new friends, never adjust, never learn how to take notes, or how to feel comfortable in clubs. You're not feeling anything knew. Everyone knows the ache of walking into the lion's den for the first time. Everyone has felt the nervousness, the shyness, the fear. But underneath all of that is something else, something unexplainable, a curious sensation which comes with new surroundings, new faces, the promise of a new lifestyle. I ask you to seize onto that feeling, to make it your guiding force. At N.Y.U. I felt lonely, a number, a blank face in the crowd. St. Joseph's is a different kind of place. Though you will certainly have to walk into the lion's den, here you need not fear, you will never have to walk alone.

COMING ATTRACTIONS . . .

Attention: All those who are interested in the mind should keep Sept. 22 open for the Psychology Club's first lecture at 4:00pm. . . Come! Honor the Freshmen who will have survived their first two and a half weeks of school on Sept. 23 by attending this year's first mixer in their honor... Keep in mind the school spirit and don't forget the St. Joseph's Dinner Dance to be held on Sept. 24... Say "Cheese!" on Sept. 28 when the Common Hour will be hosted by the Photography Club... Don't bypass your citizen duties! Support the Political Affairs Club when they hold their Voter's Registration Campaign on Sept. 29 in the cafeteria and on Sept. 30 in the Red Room... Bells will be ringing on Sept. 30 when the Gaelic Society presents The Bells of St. Mary at 7:00pm... Don't forget the popcorn!

By Mary Schneider

The Spirit

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